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BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

VOLUME III

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1908

NUMBER 3

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR 1907

THE principal part of the thirty-eighth annual report of the Trustees to the Corporation is here printed, in advance of the regular publication. In its final form, with statistical tables, lists of accessions and of members, it will be mailed to all members and will be sent to any persons interested in the Museum on application to the Secretary at the Museum.

THE increasing interest of the public in the Museum has been manifested during the past year by increase in its membership, by increase in the number of gifts received and by increased attendance both of visitors and students.

The new members number two hundred and seventy-eight, classified as follows:

Fellows in Perpetuity, contributing \$5,000.....	15
Fellows for Life, contributing \$1,000	8
Fellowship Members, contributing \$100 per annum.....	12
Sustaining Members, contributing \$25 per annum.....	41
Annual Members, contributing \$10 per annum.....	202

During the year the Museum has received gifts from sources other than the Egypt Exploration Fund of 3,153 objects, from seventy-seven different persons. Of these gifts thirty-five were paintings and ten sculptures.

The attendance during the year was 800,763, and the number of students' permits to copy was 1,006. This is the largest attendance in any single year

since the foundation of the Museum, except in 1903, when the Fifth Avenue wing was first opened to the public and the attendance was about 2,000 more.

The accessions during the year number 4,842 objects of art. Of these 3,153 were by gifts and 1,689 by purchase. Of these accessions fifty-four are paintings and thirty-nine sculptures.

RELATIONS WITH THE CITY

In view of the greater interest evidenced by the city authorities in Museum affairs, it was deemed expedient to make the Mayor *ex-officio* a member of our Board of Trustees, as well as the Comptroller and President of the Department of Parks, who have always been members of the Board. Our constitution was amended in this particular early in the year, and the Museum, for the first time in its history, has been favored with the active participation of all these city officers in the meetings of its Trustees.

Attention was called in our last annual report to the recommendation of Mayor McClellan in his Annual Message that the proposed additions to the Museum building be completed, and that money for the work at the rate of \$750,000 a year be provided by the issue of corporate stock. A law was enacted pursuant to this recommendation, giving the necessary power to the city authorities, and the City's annual appropriation for maintenance was increased from \$150,000 to \$160,000. The Mayor's continued interest in the Museum is further manifested by the following extract from his Annual Message for the year 1908:

"During the year just ended the Met-

ropolitan Museum of Art has made gratifying progress in the work it has accomplished, in the number and importance of its acquisitions, and in its power to attract the public. The recorded number of visitors during the year has been close upon 800,000. Its educational opportunities have been placed at the disposal of the public to a greater extent than ever before; and teachers and pupils, both of the public schools and of private institutions and colleges, have been quick to take advantage of them.

"During the summer there were unavoidable delays in the construction of the extension of the building on Fifth Avenue, but good progress has been made in the last months, and there is now a prospect that it will be completed in the early summer. Work is also well under way on the new wing which is to be erected back of this extension. This new wing is intended primarily to contain the great Hoentschel Collection of objects illustrating the decorative arts of the Gothic period and the eighteenth century in France, which the Museum owes to the generosity of its President, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. As was announced last spring, Mr. Morgan has presented the eighteenth century section of this collection to the Museum, and has deposited the Gothic section as an indefinite loan. To the latter he has already made most important additions in the famous groups of the Entombment and the Pietà from the Château de Biron. All these treasures and many more are stored in the basement of the building awaiting proper space for their exhibition. Mr. Morgan's other gifts during the year include a unique set of early Burgundian tapestries, and he has made valuable loans of paintings and sculptures, as well as numerous additions to his collection of Chinese porcelains. A gratifying indication of the willingness of private collectors of the City to allow the public to share the enjoyment of their artistic possessions is the number of important loans of paintings and other works of art.

"As to the needs of the Museum, and especially to those which can be met by

the City, what is most urgently required at present is an increase in its maintenance fund. Last year the City made an appropriation of \$160,000 towards its support, which sum has been renewed for the current year. The actual cost of maintaining the Museum is now about \$100,000 in excess of this amount, and has always been considerably in excess of the City appropriation. The deficiency is partially made up by the annual subscriptions of members, by admissions on pay days, and by the sale of catalogues and other publications; but it is perhaps not generally known that beyond these resources there is an annual deficit which has been regularly supplied hitherto by large subscriptions from individual Trustees.

"Another need of the Museum is a well equipped library of works relating to the history and theory of the Fine Arts for the use of students of the subject as a supplement to its collections. The Trustees are doing their share towards the development of this by a liberal annual appropriation for the purchase of books, but the present quarters of the library are wholly inadequate and unworthy of a great institution such as the Metropolitan Museum has become."

CHANGES IN THE MUSEUM STAFF

Dr. William R. Valentiner of Berlin has been appointed Curator of Decorative Arts. Dr. Valentiner is now the private assistant of William Bode, the Director General of the Royal Museums of Berlin, as well as official assistant in the Kaiser Friedrich Museum. He was especially recommended to the Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum by Dr. Bode himself, whose recommendation was warmly seconded by Julius Lessing, Director of the Kunstgewerbe Museum in Berlin. Under both of these men Dr. Valentiner has had thorough training in various branches of museum work, which has given him exceptional preparation for the duties of his new position here. His university degree was obtained at Heidelberg, where besides being a student he was for a year and a half the assistant of Henry Thode

the writer on the painters of the Renaissance. After leaving Heidelberg Dr. Valentiner went to Holland, where he worked under de Groot and Bredius, and became an assistant of the latter in the gallery of The Hague. In 1905 he was summoned by Dr. Bode to Berlin, and for the last two years has been working under him in various branches of the Berlin collections, dividing his time between the Kaiser Friedrich Museum and the Kunstgewerbe Museum. Dr. Valentiner has published several important works, his first being a monograph on the restoration of the Castle of Heidelberg, followed by a book on Rembrandt and a catalogue of the Hispano-Moresque pottery in the Alfred Beit Collection in London. He has also made special studies of the pottery of the Netherlands and of Italian majolica, and during the last year has been occupied with the collection of Moslem arts in the Kaiser Friedrich Museum.

Garrett Chatfield Pier has been appointed a General Assistant. Mr. Pier is a graduate of Columbia University and has done post-graduate work in the University of Chicago. He has studied also in the Museums of Europe, and has spent four seasons in Egypt studying Egyptian, Coptic and Arabic glass, pottery and textiles.

Roger E. Fry, Curator of Paintings, found himself unable to remain in the United States for as long a period of time as he originally anticipated when he accepted this Curatorship. He consequently resigned, and has been appointed European Advisor in Paintings to the Museum, in which position he will be able more effectively to represent the Museum abroad in this department.

Bryson Burroughs, First Assistant Curator of Paintings, has been appointed Acting Curator of Paintings in his place.

THE MUSEUM EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

In February, 1905, the employees of the Museum organized a benefit association, the objects of which, as stated in its constitution, are as follows: "To promote a spirit of comradeship among all

persons who are in the regular employment of The Metropolitan Museum of Art; to offer aid to the families of deceased or disabled employees and to provide a benefit fund for those who are retired from the service of the Museum for old age or disability after long and faithful performance of their duties."

This Association now includes practically every person in the service of the Museum. It already has a fund sufficient to enable it to pay one hundred dollars to any member who is honorably retired from the employment of the Museum after a service of twenty years, and to pay one hundred dollars to the heirs and assigns of any member who dies in the service of the Museum. At their meeting in April last the Trustees expressed their recognition of this effort of those in their service to provide a benefit fund by voting to duplicate the gift thus made to any member honorably retired after twenty years' service, and also that to the family of any deceased member who had been in the service of the Museum at least three years.

PROGRESS IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF OUR COLLECTIONS

Here should be mentioned the entire redecoration and rearrangement of the Edward C. Moore Collection, through the generosity of his family; the installation of a new bronze room, in which the Greek, Etruscan and Roman bronzes have been assembled; the grouping together of the "Primitive" pictures of all schools, of the Dutch and Flemish schools, and of the English pictures in separate rooms.

Many changes have been effected in the exhibits, some of them permanent, some tentative, looking towards the solution of questions of effective display, color-schemes, lighting, mounting, etc., as well as toward a better general arrangement of the collections in their relations to each other and to the whole.

EVENING OPENING AND PAY DAYS

Since the sixteenth of March, the Mu-

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seum has been opened on Saturdays continuously from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M., instead of being open for two evenings in the week between 8 P. M. and 10 P. M. as heretofore. This change was made because of the very small and decreasing attendance on Monday and Friday evenings, and in the expectation that a larger number of people would be inconvenienced by opening on Saturday evening, an expectation which has been realized. The average evening attendance on Saturday evening has been higher by half than the average attendance on either other evening.

Mondays and Fridays have been continued as pay days, not so much by reason of the revenue involved, though that is considerable, but because in no other way short of absolute exclusion could the Museum prolong under favorable conditions its increasing use for educational purposes. The attendance on free days is ordinarily too great to permit of the advantageous use of the Museum by students and copyists.

EXTENSIONS TO THE MUSEUM

The part of the new North Wing now in course of construction nears completion. This portion includes an ample lecture room, the need of which has been much felt.

Work has also been commenced on another wing, extending in the rear of the present North Wing, which is intended, when complete, to house the Hoentschel Collection and other objects of decorative art.

The bids received for the construction of the new wing for the accommodation of the library, which was mentioned in last year's Report, were not satisfactory and this work has not been started. It is expected that it will be placed under contract in the early Spring.

Numerous changes in the nature of alterations and improvements have been made in the present building during the year. Some of these were minor changes such as the construction of three offices for members of the staff in the attic over the Fifth Avenue Entrance, the remodeling

of two offices, of the rooms used by the Photographer, and of a room in the basement for use as a class-room. Others were more extensive, such as the alterations in the domes and roof over the Fifth Avenue Entrance Hall to gain more light and its better distribution in the room beneath, and the reconstruction and redecoration of the coves and skylights in the gallery containing the Morgan Collection of Chinese Porcelains.

INCREASED CO-OPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Museum has recently arranged for more active co-operation with the public schools of New York City by means of which its collections may be made of greater practical use in the teaching of art, history and literature as covered in the public school curricula. This work on the part of the Museum is in charge of its Assistant Secretary, Mr. Henry W. Kent.

In addition to the general facilities which the Metropolitan Museum, in common with other institutions of the kind, affords for study, by means of its arrangement of exhibits, its "information desks," its guides and other printed material, special written information will be given at any time to teachers who will designate in advance the work which they wish to illustrate. A class-room, with seating capacity of about two hundred, and containing apparatus for stereopticon exhibition, has been set aside for the use of teachers with pupils and may be secured at any time during Museum hours, notice being given in advance in order to prevent conflicting visits. When the visits of teachers or pupils fall on "pay days" provision is made for their admission without charge. Photographs and lantern slides from the collections of the Museum are sent to the class-room when desired, and assistance in selecting those which will be of use in the ground to be covered by the teacher's lecture is gladly given. Direct intercourse between the Museum and the teachers is had from time to time, and lectures on special subjects are being given by members of the Museum staff.

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For individual study, the reference library of the Museum is open during regular hours. The material here comprises about 14,000 volumes of works on art and archaeology; from 14,000 to 15,000 photographs illustrating the history of painting, sculpture, architecture, the industrial arts, etc. Over two hundred lantern slides illustrating foreign paintings and other objects of art as well as those belonging to the Museum are provided for Museum use.

For use in the school-room, photographs of Museum objects can be secured at a price of from five cents upward. These range in size from 4 x 5 to 10 x 28 inches and include all objects received since April, 1906, and a large number of those of earlier accession. Half-tone engravings and post cards representing certain paintings in the Museum are also on sale at a rate of two for five cents.

In addition to the regular catalogues, a little printed circular of recent issue is of special use to teachers. This circular gives an index to the collections, a mention of points of unusual interest in the collections, and a brief account of the matters in which visiting students are generally interested.

The Museum holds itself ready at all times to confer with teachers and to assist as far as it may in their work, and it is hoped that in the future they will find it possible to take more advantage of the benefits which the institution can give than the demands of the school system have seemed to permit in the past.

PUBLICATIONS

The Museum Bulletin has resisted all temptation to increase its length in spite of the large amount of interesting matter that has been offered for publication. If it yielded to these temptations, it could easily become more of a magazine and less of a bulletin. While in this form it must necessarily exclude long articles, it is believed that its purpose is best served by continuing to chronicle in brief and readable form the Museum events which will interest our members

and keep them closely in touch with our progress.

Three catalogues have been issued, two of them in continuation of the catalogue of Musical Instruments, the other a catalogue of the Morgan Collection of Chinese Porcelains, written by Mr. William M. Laffan and Dr. Stephen W. Bushell of South Kensington Museum, which will take its place as the most important contribution to the subject that has yet appeared. The latter work is an enlarged and improved edition of a privately printed edition issued by Mr. Morgan in 1904, the right to reprint and sell being now given to the Museum by him. Catalogues of the Collection of Watches lent by Mrs. Hearn and the Collection of Paintings given by Mr. Hearn, are, through the generosity of Mr. Hearn, sold in the same way as the catalogues of Museum collections.

Several leaflets and folders dealing with special subjects and useful as a means of giving information about the Museum and its activities have been printed, as well as a careful index to the Annual Reports of the Trustees from 1871-1902.

PHOTOGRAPH DEPARTMENT

Reference was made in the Annual Report of 1906 to the reorganization of this Department. The success attending this reorganization has more than satisfied all reasonable expectations, and the facilities now accorded to visitors and students to readily purchase at the Museum photographs of different sizes and by different processes are believed to be greater and more available than those of any other museum at home or abroad. That these facilities are appreciated by the public is evidenced by the fact that the amount realized from the sale of prints at the Museum during the year was \$2,068.99, an increase of nearly \$1,500 over the amount realized in 1906. It is not, however, chiefly as a source of revenue that this department of the Museum should be considered, but rather as a means of education.

The production of photographs for sale

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is only an incidental part of the functions of our Photographic Department. Every object of art acquired by the Museum is now photographed for its own records.

During 1907 the Detroit Publishing Company were granted a second concession to complete their already large number of negatives for genuine carbon prints, the sizes ranging from 10 x 13 to 18 x 22 inches. Many of these prints are colored by their process which makes them works of art in the photographic sense. The most important of the new concessions granted this year to photograph in the Museum was issued to the New York State Education Department for a large number of subjects from the paintings and sculpture for lantern-slide use in connection with educational purposes. By this means of popularizing good art the Museum is constantly called to the attention of the pupils of free educational institutions in districts where little that is art ever enters, and the Museum's treasures are visually brought to them and explained to them for their education and cultivation of good taste.

Post cards, showing views of the Museum and important exhibits, have been made by the Detroit Publishing Company, and are on sale at the Museum catalogue stands. The number of subjects is being increased, and will eventually be very representative.

THE LIBRARY

The number of books in the Library on December 31, 1907, was 14,657.

The additions during the past year have been 1,901.

By purchase from the income of the

Jacob S. Rogers Fund. 1,502

By purchase from income of Museum funds. 250

By gift. 149

The number of photographs added to the collection last year, chiefly by purchase, was about 3,411, making now a total of over 14,000. About 11,000 of these prints have been mounted and arranged, and are now available to the public.

As was stated in last year's Report, it is not the desire of the Museum in the development of its library to compete with or duplicate the popularizing work of the New York Public Library, but to provide a place where the officials of the Museum, and students generally, may pursue their literary investigations in subjects connected with the arts represented in its collections, and where they may find the materials which will aid them in determining doubtful points in regard to the history or significance of any Museum object in which they are interested.

BEQUESTS OF MONEY

During the year the following bequests of money have been received:

Amelia B. Lazarus. \$20,000

Benjamin F. Davis. 50,000

Margaret A. Jones. 25,000

James H. Mergentine. 952

THE MORE IMPORTANT ACCESSIONS DURING THE YEAR

By far the most important acquisition of the year is the gift of the celebrated Hoentschel Collection from our President Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. This collection was described in the June number of the Bulletin. It cannot be placed on exhibition until the completion of the North Central Wing, now being built to contain it. By its possession the Museum easily becomes *hors concours* in its collection of French, eighteenth century decorative art. It includes *boiseries* of every size and description characteristic of the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI, many with their original colors and gilding still fresh upon them. Among the specimens of woodwork are not only the garlands, festoons and other individual ornaments which were attached to walls, but brackets, frames, screens, pedestals, balustrades, newel-posts, chairs, tables, cabinets, doors, over-doors, and panels. Many of these wood carvings have an added interest from the fact that they come from historical buildings. Another important and possible unique feature of

the collection is a large quantity of ormolu decorations, such as were affixed to furniture, which are known to have been made by the most famous designers of the period. For ornament upon a small scale they will offer designers an inexhaustible supply of suggestions and inspiration.

The Gothic section of the collection is equally illustrative of the decorative art of its period, but in conformity with the character of that period it is much more serious in spirit, and ecclesiastical work has a large share in it. There are several fine sets of choir stalls, beautifully carved, eight pairs of stone columns, a large carved stone mantelpiece, furniture—domestic as well as ecclesiastical—panels and other details. There are also many pieces of sculpture and tapestry. This collection was purchased by Mr. Morgan in the spring of 1906. Soon afterward he formally presented to the Museum all the objects in the eighteenth-century section, as described above, and announced that he would deposit the entire Gothic section in the Museum as a loan.

Another important acquisition is a suite of Gothic tapestries (Burgundian) of Arras, Bruges or Tournai workmanship of the fifteenth century, probably made for Philip the Good, which is also a gift from our President, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan.

Other gifts which should be specially mentioned are eighteen paintings of different Schools received from the estate of the late Col. Thomas P. Salter, and a collection of ecclesiastical objects in silver, received from the widow of the late Charles W. Woolsey.

In connection with the welcome establishment by the children of Mr. Samuel Putnam Avery of a purchase fund of \$25,000 in his memory, the Museum availed itself of the opportunity to acquire the well-known Gibbs-Channing-Avery portrait of Washington, by Gilbert Stuart, a full description of which was contained in the July Bulletin.

The Egyptian Department of the Museum has been greatly enriched during the year by the work of its Curator, Mr. Albert M. Lythgoe, in Egypt. This work

has been of a twofold nature; first, the excavations which he has conducted on behalf of the Museum, with the financial support of a benefactor who wishes his name withheld, and second, the purchase of Egyptian antiquities of various epochs for the purpose of developing our collection of Egyptian art in a systematic manner. The objects already received from these two sources now occupy an entire room on the first floor, and some of the most important of those unearthed in Mr. Lythgoe's excavations last season are yet to arrive. Mr. Lythgoe is now in Egypt continuing both kinds of the work which was thus auspiciously begun.

The accessions in the Department of Classical Art during the year have been both numerous and of a most important character, and have amply justified the policy adopted in 1906, of purchasing objects of this kind with expert assistance, in the principal markets of Europe. The year's purchases of original works of Greek and Roman art made in this manner number one hundred and twenty-seven, divided as follows: ten marbles, forty-five vases, twenty-eight bronzes, thirty-one terra-cotta statuettes and thirteen miscellaneous objects, such as gems, jewelry, etc. Visitors to the Museum who have seen these since their temporary installation in a room by themselves will agree that they are all of exceptionally fine quality, and that they will be of great value in enabling us to illustrate the principles of classic art.

COLLECTIONS OF AMERICAN ART

Twenty-one pictures and twenty-two bronzes or marbles by American painters or sculptors have been acquired during the year. Among the more important paintings are the following: the Gibbs-Channing-Avery portrait of Washington, by Gilbert Stuart, already mentioned; two other portraits by Stuart, and, from the income of the Hearn Fund, paintings by Bunce, Murphy and Reid. "The Falling Gladiator," by Dr. William Rimmer, obtained through the Rimmer Memorial Committee, is the most noteworthy piece of sculpture acquired.

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The tentative lists of some of the best known American painters and sculptors, who either are not at all or are not adequately represented in our collections, have been corrected to date and are included in an appendix to this report.

CONCLUSION

The chief events of the year have been the increasing interest and co-operation of

our city authorities in the Museum as one of the Public Institutions of the City, and the gift of the Hoentschel Collection. Notable is our steady and orderly progress in every line of Museum development, and particularly along those that fulfill our educational functions.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN,
President

ROBERT W. DE FOREST,
Secretary.

